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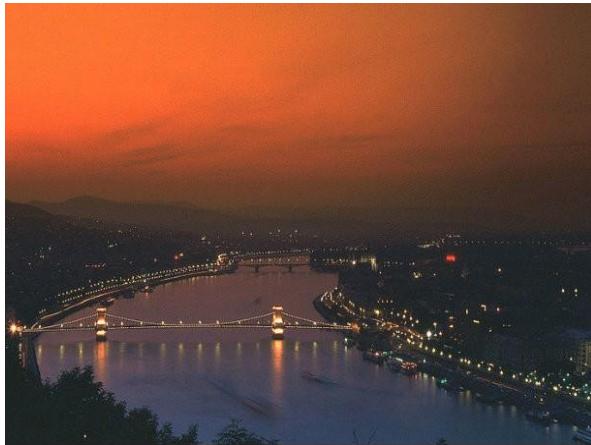
Online  
ISSN 1440-9828



November 2014 No 820

## Inside The Secret Budapest Meeting Of 'Racial Realists' They want to expel "non-European" immigrants and expound ugly racial theories.

A reporter sits in at the controversial international gathering even the Hungarian government tried to ban.  
Boris Kálnoky, 2014-10-07



DIE WELT

### Budapest at night

**BUDAPEST** — A rustic restaurant in Budapest has been reserved for this meeting, where some 70 mostly male guests sit at long tables. "I'm a little concerned that I might get arrested," says author and former diplomat [Tomislav Sunic](#), a Croat with an American passport and one of the leading dogmatists of the New Right. He's about to give a speech warning of the dangers of [too many immigrants](#) and multicultural societies.

Others who were scheduled to speak here are instead in police custody, were kicked out of the country, or weren't admitted in the first place. The original plan was to hold a high-profile congress on Europe's future and the dangers of mixing races. The reality is a semi-secret private event.

The night before, those attending received a short text message that came across as a little conspiratorial. It said that participants would meet "at the toy store near Budapest south station and walk to the venue from there." Although it went deliberately unmentioned in the message, everyone apparently knew where the venue was.

The genesis of the event was an announcement by the National Policy Institute in Washington, which sees itself as a right-wing think tank. It is so far right that nobody in the political mainstream wants to be associated with it. The announcement concerned an international conference in Budapest, to be held at the beginning of October, and stated that the "promising

Hungarian Jobbik Party" would take part. Cost: \$150 per person, pre-paid.

Scheduled speakers were Jobbik politician Márton Gyöngyösi and Russian Eurasia advocate [Alexander Dugin](#), who is said to exercise quite a bit of influence over Russian President Vladimir Putin and his aggressive Ukraine policy. From the U.S., main organizer Richard Spencer and "racial realist" Jared Taylor were also on the program. Expected from Austria was Markus Willinger, the man behind "[Generation Identity](#)."



*Dugin is thought to have Vladimir Putin's ear.*  
Photo: [Ahbot](#)

These are not names that will be familiar to everyone. But on the right-wing scene, these men are superstars. Anybody to the right of Bavaria's Christian Social Union today would no longer say "I don't like black people." Instead they would say they were "interested in the theories of Richard Spencer and Markus Willinger."

### Trying to shut it down

Hungarian Prime Minister [Viktor Orbán](#) quickly recognized what the most important outcome of such a meeting was likely to be: an international outcry against him and his government. Although the organizers were American, opposition on the left had already begun to present his government as [latent racists](#) because they tolerated such a conference. So Orbán summarily banned it, although that too was controversial. Liberal human rights advocates complained then about "restrictions on freedom of opinion."

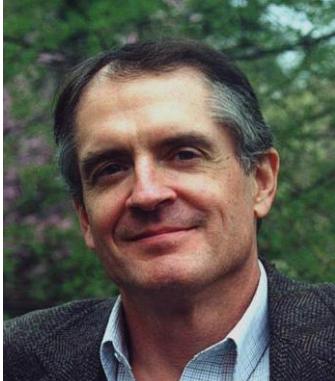
Richard Spencer wasn't about to see the conference banned. "They will not win," he said of Orbán's government, going on to launch some sharply critical video attacks against the prime minister. Then on Oct.

1 came the news from Budapest that the congress was going ahead.

Two evenings later, Spencer was in police custody. He was meeting with some of the other participants at a bar when 50 policemen showed up for an identity check. Spencer was detained. The whole episode was filmed, and it has been [viewed on YouTube](#) more than 16,000 times.

Another comrade-in-arms had already been taken into custody upon arrival in Hungary, and Alexander Dugin never showed up at all. "Hungarian authorities told him he wasn't welcome," Jared Taylor told disappointed participants.

Of all the scheduled speakers, only Taylor and Tomislav Sunic turned up. Jobbik, the Hungarian radical right party, was not represented at all. They are trying to build a "smoother" party image, and Márton Gyöngyösi apparently bent to party pressure and bowed out as speaker.



**Jared Taylor is a Yale University graduate.**

**Photo:** [Wikipedia](#)

There were hardly any Hungarians in the small groups that met at the toy store near the train station. The press was prominently represented, including *The Wall Street Journal* and Euronews, which had somehow gotten wind of the event. But in the end, only three journalists who had been "cleared" beforehand were admitted — a BBC reporter, a Canadian journalist and this *Welt* correspondent.

#### **Inside the event**

So here they all are having dinner. Among those who shelled out quite a bit to get here are venerable finger-waggers prophesying the West's downfall, young students on an identity search, middle-aged men with good jobs. They hail from Latvia, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, the UK, and the United States. There is also a Francophile from Germany who describes himself as "racially conservative" and who complains that children these days as young as kindergarten age are being [vaccinated with anti-racism](#). This is nothing short of brainwashing, he claims. He has come to the conference mainly to hear Jared Taylor. Three Flemish students from the Nationalist Student Association express regret about Dugin's absence. It is essential to break free of American paternalism, and Dugin had the right sort of ideas on that, they say. They would also have liked to hear Markus Willinger because they embrace his identity-based views. It all boils down to everybody being able to live their identity, but that requires non-European foreigners to [go back to their countries of origin](#). "We want them to be able to live their identities — in their own countries," says Jens Derycke, a 25-year-old

criminology student. When he graduates, he wants to get a job with the police or justice departments.

Immigration, says his colleague Friedrich van de Lanoote, a 28-year-old engineer, means loss of identity for everyone. Immigrants in Belgium lose their original value systems, he says. They all agree that [Islamization](#) is the major problem. Robert Schaap, 44, from the Netherlands has a decal he hands out that reads "Stop Islamization" in Dutch.



**Sunic is a native of Zagreb, Croatia**

On this evening in the Budapest restaurant, many opposing views are heard. The Flemish want to separate from Belgium and join up with the Netherlands (Dutchman Schaap favors that as well), and they hold Dugin in very high esteem. But then Tomislav Sunic, the first to give a speech, speaks out against small-time nationalism. Europeans have to hold together to save their culture, he says. In private conversation earlier, he politely said that Dugin's ideas for Eurasia are "too romantic" and that he likes America, unlike the Belgians present.

#### **Down with capitalism and the Catholic Church**

Sunic makes the Catholic Church out to be a particularly perfidious opponent because it supports unlimited acceptance of refugees. But the main culprit in Europe's downfall is capitalism. Its greed for profits makes companies seek cheap labor and therefore draw tides of immigrants.

The whole point is that people should not love one's neighbor as oneself. One should love one's equals and perhaps respect non-European foreigners or members of other races. That is Jared Taylor's message. A polished speaker, he uses well-chosen words to explain to his audience that "we Europeans" — among whom he includes white Americans — "didn't build up our wonderful civilization by chance," but because "we brought genetic preconditions with us that put us in a position to be able to do it."

Race is a reality, and it is harmful to shut one's eyes to that reality, he says. That might sound pessimistic, as the American and western European governments strive to water down these "genetic foundations of civilization" through immigration. This is self-destructive. He is apparently placing his last hopes on a white genetic and cultural Europe. And on countries such as Hungary, which until now have seen [virtually no immigrants](#). He becomes emotional as he calls for a "brotherhood of Europeans." He is rewarded for his efforts by a thunderous standing ovation.

People here claim not to be attracted by political parties, which they say are too "mainstream." The Dutch and Flemish present even reject Dutch Islam

critic Geert Wilders. "Too liberal, too pro-American," Schaap says. Still the Alternative for Germany party is a welcome addition, SuniÃ‡ believes. They are "much better than the CDU and other German mainstream parties."

The police still haven't turned up. Participants make plans to spend the following day seeing a little bit of the city.

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/culturesociety/inside-the-secret-budapest-meeting-of-039-racial-realists039/tomislavsunialexanderduginjobiknationalpolicyinstituterichardspencerjaredtaylor/c3s17180/#.VDST3RarxGM#ixzz3FVuyXJCA>

## Defying the Budapest Ban: The Rebel vs the Dissident

Tom Sunic, October 7, 2014

Despite the ban by the Hungarian government, the NPI conference did take place in Budapest on October 5, albeit in a truncated version but with an air of rebellion and emotional intensity. A day earlier, despite the arrest of the NPI Chairman Mr Richard Spencer, despite constant police surveillance of all NPI guests, and despite the fact that there were only two official speakers, the conference turned out to be a surprising success. The distinct possibility of a police crackdown on the venue did not prevent more than 70 people from attending the dinner and listen to the speeches delivered by Jared Taylor and myself. Two journalists, one from the BBC, the other from the German daily *Die Welt*, covered the event and interviewed the speakers ([BBC. Die Welt](#)).

The genesis, the unfolding, and the subsequent end of the NPI event in Budapest, including the earlier arrest of Richard Spencer, have been more or less objectively reported by friendly websites. What lessons can we now draw? Here are some eclectic remarks and tentative suggestions, from the lexical, legal, philosophical and sociobiological perspective.

### Legality and Legitimacy

The well -planned and well-advertised NPI conference scheduled to take place in Budapest from October 3 to October 5 as well as the shortened version, were in clear violation of a previous legal decision reached by the Hungarian government. One must emphasize that the official ban had not been decreed by local Antifa groups, leftist hacklers, paleo-communist students, LGTB agitators, or some Jewish lobby—although, of course, one cannot rule out at all that these organizations had earlier put mighty pressure on Viktor Orban's government to ban the conference. Had the Leftists or the Antifas, instead of the government of Hungary, tried to disrupt the planned conference of their own, as is so often the case in Germany, the NPI would have at least enjoyed some semblance of legal protection.

This was not the case. The Hungarian government ban was an official **ukase** right from the start. The ultimate consequences were to be reckoned with. About the reasons of the ban, or about those who might have been behind it, one could speculate for years and never arrive at one single and persuasive conclusion. State legality, as the German legal scholar Carl Schmitt extensively wrote long time ago, lies often in contradistinction to state legitimacy. The ex-Soviet Union, or the present day North Korea, or Cuba for that matter, were and still are states abiding by the rule of law. To what extent, however, the rule of law in these countries has a legitimate foundation — well, this remains a very different story.

### Lexicon and Locutions

The NPI dinner- talk was not a "racist gathering "or a "White supremacist" Oktoberfest or "Spencerfest," as some media had derisively announced. The shorthand version of the NPI conference took shape in the form of a dinner where the two speakers delivered their academic talks in front of approximately 70 guests. All the guests in attendance can be described as non-conformists and free thinkers of European extraction who had arrived to the venue from all parts of the world not to indulge in alleged nationalist and racist ravings, but to hear and meet other likeminded non-conformist individuals. The prime focus of the speakers' lectures was the aberrant nature of multicultural mendacity of the System and the necessity for the unity of all the peoples of European extraction. In this sense, conference, although modest in size, was of historic importance.

The first conclusion one can draw: The masters of the discourse of the System were nervous and afraid, which could best be seen in the unnecessary overreaction of the Hungarian government and the big publicity the NPI received thereafter. The System master plan backfired. Undoubtedly, the main problem facing most White nationalists in the USA and Europe is how to come to grips with the terror of the liberal meta-language and its signifiers whose signified are being deliberately doctored up anew by the System and its scribes. Relatively new locutions such as "hate speech," "White supremacists," "fascist," "neo- Nazis", have been in use in the mainstream media for a very long period of time — to the point that they have by now lost their original meaning and their judicial weight, even among those who use them as shut-up words against modern non-conformists, rebels and heretics.

In fact, these signifiers have by now become a badge of honor for any would be non-conformist rebel, regardless of his or her ideological stripes.

(Historical note: Leo Trotsky, a Bolshevik of Jewish origin was also dubbed "fascist" by Stalin in 1939, as was the former maverick communist head of the Yugoslav state, Josip Broz Tito).

White nationalists in the EU and USA should start reappropriating their own discourse and avoid insignia reminiscent of the fascism or National Socialism of the 1930s and 40s.

Why not use words, such as "Euro -American heretics," or "European rebels" instead of the value loaded locution "White nationalist" — a locution that originated in the fevered brains of the thought police like the SPLC and the ADL?

### Rebels vs Dissidents

Right in forefront of the first circle of Dante's *Inferno* we encounter opportunists of all stripes. Let us be honest. Yes-men and sycophants make up the vast majority of citizens in any

contemporary Western society. Both the Hungarian Prime minister Viktor Orbán and his head of the police, himself a former big time communist police official, Sándor Pintér, had started their career as communist youth members, i.e. **komsomolci** in the former communist Hungary.

Alas, old dogs cannot be taught new tricks! Their **homo sovieticus** phenotype may have changed, but their communist genotype has remained the same. They, along with practically **all** East European political elites, will dance to the music of any new world hegemon — if historical circumstances require it.

**This is known as the “German syndrome,” as for example when the German government needs to prove over and over again and beyond any public doubt that Germany is a more philo-Semitic country than any other country in Europe.**

Not long ago politicians in Eastern Europe avidly hurried to the Kremlin in order to display their communist party loyalty. Now, in order to display their liberal credentials the same ones and their younger liberal progeny, even if not invited, avidly hurry to Tel Aviv, with all due subsequent genuflections in Washington DC and Brussels.

**The same could be said about many modern academics in the USA and the EU who privately share every word of the NPI speakers, but who publicly realize that systemic brownnosing to the System pays off much better than upholding their honor.**

Many non-conformists of European extraction, aka White nationalists, make a serious mistake when using synonymously the words 'dissident' and 'rebel.' Many anticommunist dissidents who had come from the Soviet Union to the USA during the Cold War remained self-proclaimed dissidents, yet learned quickly how to fawn over their new masters. Hundreds of them have made glorious careers as advisors and professors in the USA.

But they are not rebels; they never questioned the other side of the same System. The writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a rebel.

**On the other hand, Alexander Sakharov, the human rights preacher and the former Soviet party hack who transformed himself into a Western anticommunist, was not a rebel. Sakharov preferred American fame and glitz even if it implied selling out his soul twice.**

Rebels never sell out to any Mephistopheles even if they sometimes unwittingly conjure up bad spirits that turn against them. Rebels not only question the prevailing regime; they question themselves and their own ideas 24 hours a day.

In classical literature we encounter true rebels, as for instance in the works of Ernst Jünger, or in the dramas of Friedrich Schiller. A rebel never sells out. Richard Spencer is a true non-conformist and rebel and a true hero, precisely because he would reject these flattering labels. He did not crave the media limelight, nor did he mimic a heretic, like so many “right-wingers” or Hollywood nutsies do. He fought for a simple right to free speech.

A rebel is a man of impeccable character and of absolute moral integrity who puts the interests of his community above his own private interests, and above the interests of his family.

One could illustrate the spirit of the rebel by the quote of the philosopher **Emile Cioran**: “A rebel never expects anything from anybody; neither from people, nor from gods.”

**Dr. Tom Sunic** is a former political science professor and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Freedom Party. His new book is *Chroniques des temps postmodernes* (Avatar, 2014).

[http://www.theoccidentalobserver.net/2014/10/defyingthebudentbantherebelsthebuddhistdissident/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+theoccidentalobserver%2Ffeed+%28The+Occidental+Observer%29](http://www.theoccidentalobserver.net/2014/10/defyingthebudentbantherebelsthebuddhistdissident/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+theoccidentalobserver%2Ffeed+%28The+Occidental+Observer%29)

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Think Jewish – think racially!

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## French Far Right Senator Has Jewish Roots National Front's David Rachline Father Is Jewish



The 26-year-old son of a Jewish man is one of the first members of the far-right National Front party to be elected to France's senate.

David Rachline and another National Front candidate, Stephane Ravier, were elected as senators on Sunday in the national elections for the French upper house, which never before had lawmakers from the controversial party. Rachline is France's youngest-ever senator.

He was born to Serge Rachline, whom David Rachline in 2011 described to the news site Rue89 as a Socialist, non-practicing Jew. Serge died when David Rachline was 16. National Front was founded by Jean-Marie Le Pen, who, like other senior

members of the party, has multiple convictions for Holocaust denial and incitement to hatred against Jews.

But his daughter, Marine Le Pen, has, since her election in as party leader in 2011, tried to rehabilitate the party's image, distancing herself from her father's statement and from other racist expressions. Still, Jean-Marie Le Pen is the party's honorary president.

Rue89 revealed Rachline's Jewish roots when he was leader of the party's youth division. Confronted with the site's findings, **Rachline downplayed their significance, saying he was neither circumcised nor did he have a bar mitzvah and that he is not Jewish “according to the books.”**

**According to Jewish law, only the descendants of a Jewish mother is considered Jewish. The Reform movement recognizes patrilineal descent in cases where a child is given a Jewish upbringing.**

Rachline also said he was not practicing any religion, but that if he has to choose one it would be Catholicism because of its “egalitarianism.” In that interview with rue89, he acknowledged harboring sympathies for the “Equality and Reconciliation” movement of the far-right Holocaust-denier and anti-Israel activist Alain Soral.

"What I liked about Soral is his criticism of liberalism," he said. "Besides, you can oppose Israel's policies without being anti-Semitic."

Rue89 journalist Nolwenn Le Blevennec wrote that she was motivated to research Rachline's origins because, in defending a controversial statement by Jean-Marie Le Pen during an interview, he mumbled: "The things you make me say."

<http://forward.com/articles/206840/french-far-right-senator-has-jewish-roots/#ixzz3FAifsYH1>

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**AI comment:** In desperation the Jewish media, inexorably-of necessity, always thinks in physical racist terms, just as German philosopher Martin Heidegger stated in his maxim:

***The Jews, with their marked gift for calculating, live, already for the longest time, according to the principle of race, which is why they are resisting its consistent application with utmost violence.*** — Martin Heidegger, Überlegungen XII, 84-85, v. 96, p. 56.

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**...and now this item from an atheist whose only belief is in Jewish supremacism...**

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### **'Next time I criticise Israel I predict they will call me a self-hating Jew'**

**PHILLIP ADAMS, THE AUSTRALIAN, OCTOBER 04, 2014 12:00AM**

**THOUGH my criticisms of Israeli policies towards the Palestinians have had me branded an anti-Semite in both correspondence and *The Australian Jewish News*, I'm more accurately described as a philo-Semite — someone totally in awe of the Jewish contribution to human civilisation.**

This is out of all proportion to their small population around the world — a population greatly reduced by the Holocaust. Had that vast obscenity not occurred there'd be many millions more Jews, both religious and secular, in the diaspora. And far fewer in Israel.

As performers, the contribution of Jews to classical music is incomparable. The fiddlers on the roof became stars playing the Stradivarius at Carnegie Hall, the members of exalted string quartets and instrumentalists in the noblest orchestras. As composers, Jews have been pre-eminent — Mahler in the concert halls, Gershwin and Berlin on Broadway. And Jewish contributions to jazz are second only to the African American. Jewish people are equally conspicuous in literature. Like playing the violin, like dealing in diamonds, the ability to write a novel is portable — something very important to a people threatened for millennia by pogroms culminating in genocide. And it's endless fear and suffering that get the words — and music — pouring out.

Comedy, too. Koestler described the Jews as "the exposed nerve-ends of humanity" — and the paradox of pain producing humour has given us many, if not most, of the world's greatest humorists and comics. From Mo McCackie to the Marx Brothers and Mel Brooks, Lenny Bruce to Joan Rivers, Woody Allen, Peter Sellers, Jerry Seinfeld, Larry David, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jon Stewart. "Jewish humour" is so universally recognised that Chaplin, the most famous comedian who ever lived, was wrongly assumed to be Jewish and attacked as such by US anti-Semites. Knowing all too well the connections between misery and mirth, Chaplin declined to deny it.

Hollywood itself was and remains a Jewish town, movies the Jewish industry — energised by great and glorious talents fleeing persecution in Europe. In the Dream Factory, Jews effectively dreamt America into existence.

Science? You can sum it up in one word: Einstein. Who, fearful that Hitler would soon have the A-bomb, urged FDR to build it first. Thus anti-Semitism hastened the nuclear age, the ultimate weapons created by Jews in the US. On the other side of the coin ... medical science. Almost all the doctors, specialists and surgeons who've been keeping me alive are Jewish, many being exiles from apartheid South Africa.

Despite Hitler branding modern art decadent and something else to blame on the Jews, they're under-represented in the visual arts. Not a lot of famous Jewish painters (notable exceptions being Chagall and Modigliani). Perhaps this is a consequence of a religious prohibition shared by Jews and Muslims — the dogma disapproving of the depiction of God or Allah and of the "graven image" in general. And I can't think of too many Jewish sporting heroes, if you leave out David's gold-medal skills with the slingshot. Hard to think of a Jewish golfer on the US circuit — Jews weren't welcome in the posh golf clubs.

Footnote. This atheist christened (pun intended) his firstborn daughter with a Jewish name. Twenty years later, aiming to join that most Jewish calling of psychoanalysis, Dr Rebecca Adams travelled to the US and converted to Judaism in a progressive synagogue. Whereupon my second daughter Meaghan discovered, in an old family Bible, that her dad seems to have had a Jewish great-great-grandmother on his mother's side and is, as a result, almost certainly Jewish. Now that this is public I predict my next criticism of Israel will have me called a "self-hating Jew". Shalom.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/next-time-i-criticise-israel-i-predict-they-will-call-me-a-selfhating-jew/story-e6frg7fx-1227078240619>

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### **Da'ish (IS), FSA and al Nusra Compete for Dwindling Support... Street Scenes from a Damascus Neighborhood**

**By Franklin Lamb — *Barzeh neighborhood, Damascus***

Changes are underway in Damascus's suburban neighborhoods. In some of these neighborhoods there are few families' left—only fighters. But in others, residents are trickling back in (or in some cases never even left) despite the danger. Here in these areas, those who have chosen the armed opposition route fall are grouped roughly in the following percentiles: 70% FSA, 25% Al Nusra, and, as of now, relatively few, Da'ish (IS).

During meetings with young men from the Barzeh neighborhood, an area maybe five blocks by eight blocks, this observer learned of approximately 700 FSA fighters in the neighborhood, 110 from al Nusra, compared with only 7 or 8 Da'ish fighters. The latter do not appear very active in community matters, but reportedly keep their eyes peeled watching what the other militia are up to. Even so, Da'ish still recruits and sends applicants to other locations for military

training, this while promising that within two months the Islamic State will attack central Damascus.

At the same time, desertions among the rebels are reportedly on the upswing in these areas, and some of the FSA and al-Nusra fighters are splitting off to join Da'ish. It seems that some of these young militia members—pretty much like youngsters everywhere—simply want to play for a 'winning team' or in the 'big leagues,' and Da'ish is still a strong magnet for 'tryouts.' Al-Nusra and Da'ish fighters both claim they are eager to fight Hezbollah—and Western forces—who they believe will show up sooner or later. And many of them exhibit an attitude similar to that of a European jihadist who recently remarked to this observer, "Let's get it on. And the world will itself judge who are the best fighters, we who believe in Allah or the kuffars (disbelievers)."

Another disturbing attitude, all too frequently expressed in Damascene neighborhoods, is the desire of many of these young men, many of them from "good" families, to sacrifice themselves and become martyrs to their various causes. Residents report that some of the most promising students—majoring in subjects like medicine, law, engineering, computer science, business and other professions—are disaffected and see no future for themselves. And while many are deeply religious, a surprising number appear not to be.

Overwhelmingly the rebels come from areas where outsiders are few. This observer's friend of more than three years, whose name I withhold for his security, has lived most of his life in Barzeh and knows many of the militia guys. He reports that currently there are only two foreign fighters in Barzeh, one from Algeria and the other from Saudi Arabia. And he expressed shock to me that a friend of his from childhood—who joined al-Nusra 18 months ago and had since become one of its local leaders—had suddenly disappeared. A few days later, my friend got a 'what's up' message from Turkey and learned that his friend had shaved his beard, changed his style of clothing, and left Barzeh without telling anyone. Now he reports that he wears shorts and swims during the day on the Turkish coast and no longer has any desire to fight anyone.

Many among al Nusra and other rebel groups, it seems, are trying to leave Syria and go somewhere, anywhere, that might offer them a positive future of some sort—because they see the war in Syria as being a long one. And in this respect they are no different from the war-weary, exhausted, traumatized Syrian population in general. With very few jobs and nearly ten million displaced from their homes—and with some 3 million living as refugees in neighboring countries—what one finds here on the one hand is a growing desire to get out, to establish, sadly, a new life elsewhere, in a land other than the one they most love. Yet on the other, significant numbers of fairly hard-core al-Nusra fighters, as noted above, are quitting that militia in order to join the winning team—Da'ish. It is a combination of social factors pointing to what the Iranians have already made note of: that Obama's strategy of trying to fight Da'ish and the Syrian government at the same time is probably doomed to failure.

Some Syrian analysts, whose views this observer credits, identify two trends that appear to be developing in Syrian neighborhoods controlled by violent militia. One is the growing resistance by the local population to being intimidated and abused by the occupying gunmen—while another is the role the Syrian government is playing in engaging in dialog, usually privately, with the rebels, and offering what some locals here refer to as "contracts." These are proposals of ceasefires of varying scope in order to help give some hope and help to the increasingly besieged population.

Also, neighborhood attitudes toward militia in areas around Damascus are dramatically changing. This observer is advised by fighters from Barzeh that as recently as 12-18 months ago, maybe 80% of the citizens supported the FSA, while some backed al Nusra or other groups. Today militia support is estimated at less than 40%—and dwindling. Even those who

still back the armed gangs are weaker in their support and no longer respect the militia or defer to them as before. Increasingly neighborhood residents are confronting the rebels on neighborhood streets via 'citizen committees.' They are showing up at rebel checkpoints or headquarters to complain or demand respect and an end to arbitrary street "justice." Reasons for this include abhorrence of brutality, exhaustion, disillusionment, as well as demonstrable efforts by the Syrian government to increase and maintain services while trying to make important and long overdue changes. Even many rebels are said to credit the government for its willingness to be flexible and to make "contracts" with them to improve the lives of the besieged population.

For example, when families return to their homes after having fled, nearly all find that their flats have been broken into and personal property stolen, and they sometimes discover some of their stolen items being sold in neighborhood 'jihadist souks.' According to one resident of Barzeh, computers and plasma TV's are among the most commonly stolen property. By contrast, "neighborhood watch" citizen groups seek the return of stolen goods and demand that the militias stop the thievery.

Also people are increasingly calling for a return to Syrian secularism, and they may actually be making some progress on this point. Unlike Da'ish, al Nusra does *not* insist that people attend a mosque for prayers—while the FSA is relatively secular. Nusra *does* require that women wear hijabs in neighborhoods under its control, and the first two times a woman is caught without one she is issued a warning. The third time she risks a public whipping. This observer is advised that many younger women, despite the risks, will remove their head scarves the moment they cross out of rebel-held areas, sometimes in plain view of those manning the checkpoints, leaving the neighborhood at this point, traveling to downtown Damascus for work or other purposes. It's not dissimilar actually to what one finds among many Iranian women, particularly students at Tehran University, who openly admit, often with grins, to giving the local "morality police" a hard time when demands—for instance to adjust their headscarves so as to reduce the amount of hair visible—are made by roving "purists."

As for the Free Syrian Army, now dubbed by some in the Obama Administration as the "National Coalition—kind of like the National Guard"—it is viewed by many here as corrupt, manned to a large extent by lowlifes and thieves. The "Free Syrian Army," as one pithy adage has it, is neither free, nor Syrian, nor an army. And at least in Barzeh, at any rate, it is also viewed as being for sale to the highest bidder. Moreover, the residents here, though increasingly vocal about jihadist militias, seem to hold actually *more* respect for al-Nusra, despite its Islamist extremism, than for the Western-backed FSA.

Late word just received by this observer from his friend, the aforementioned son of Barzeh: yesterday he, too, snuck across the Syrian-Turkey border in search of a new life-somewhere until peace returns to his beloved Syria.

## What Would Braveheart Do?

By Patrick J. Buchanan

No matter how the vote turns out on Thursday in Scotland, either for independence or continued union with Britain, the disintegration of the Old Continent appears almost inevitable. Already the British government has conceded that, even if the Scots vote for union, Edinburgh will receive greater powers to rule itself.

Cheering for the breakup of the U.K. are Catalans and Basques, Bretons and Corsicans, Tyroleans, Venetians, Flemish, all dreaming of nations of their own carved out of Spain, France, Italy and Belgium.

Europe's secessionists have waxed ever stronger since the last decade of the 20th century when the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia splintered into 22 nations and Czechoslovakia broke in two.

Abkhazians and Ossetians then broke from Georgia as Transnistria fought free of Moldova. Chechnya went to war twice to escape from Russia. Secessionists now battle Russia in Ingushetsia and Dagestan.

The decomposition of the nations of Old Europe is the triumph of tribalism over transnationalism. The heart has reasons that the mind knows not, said Pascal. And the wild heart is winning.

The call of blood, history, faith, culture and memory is winning the struggle against Economism, the Western materialist ideology that holds that the desire for money and things is what ultimately motivates mankind.

Economics *über alles*. Here is Niall Ferguson in the New York Times wondering how these crazy Scots could think of seceding from England.

"The economic risks are so glaring that even Paul Krugman and I agree it's a terrible idea. What currency will Scotland use? The pound? The euro? No one knows. What share of North Sea oil revenues will go to Edinburgh? What about Scotland's share of Britain's enormous national debt?"

A Scottish vote for independence, Ferguson wails, "would have grave economic consequences, and not just for Scotland. Investment has already stalled. Big companies based in Scotland, notably the pensions giant Standard Life, have warned of relocating to England. Jobs would definitely be lost. The recent steep decline in the pound shows that the financial world hates the whole idea."

Niall Ferguson is not the kind of fellow who would have been out there at midnight dumping the King's tea into Boston harbor in 1773.

And he would surely have admonished those stupid farmers on the Concord Bridge that if they didn't put those muskets down, they could wind up ruining the colonies' trade with the Mother Country.

"What currency will we use?" Ferguson would have demanded of Jefferson in Independence Hall in 1776.

Yet it is not only in Scotland where peoples are deciding that what separates them is more important than what unites them.

Secessionism is ablaze all over the world.

All those straight lines on Middle East maps drawn up by Sykes and Picot are being erased. The Syria and Iraq we have known will never be the same again, as the Shia-Sunni divide deepens and the Kurds of Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran come together.

In this century, we have seen Ethiopia and Sudan break in two, and now South Sudan hosts a tribal-civil war between Dinka and Nuer.

Facing secessionist movements in Tibet and the Uighur lands of the west, Beijing is exporting Han Chinese by the trainload to repopulate the regions. Much like Stalin did with the Baltic republics he annexed in 1940.

Vladimir Putin is perhaps the most popular leader alive for bringing home to Mother Russia the Crimea and making a virtual protectorate of the Russified southeastern Ukraine.

But it is not only secessionism that imperils the One Europe of Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman and their historic achievement, the EU. In Britain, France, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary and most of the countries of Europe, populist parties have arisen to liberate their nations from what they see as the soft dictatorship of the EU.

Foremost among these are Nigel Farage's Independence Party, the UKIP, and the National Front of Marine Le Pen, who is now running ahead of President Francois Hollande in national polls. This weekend, the Sweden Democrats, a rightist party, doubled its strength, taking 13 percent of the vote as Stockholm's conservative government fell.

What assures the growth of these parties is what engendered them — mass immigration from the Third World and the attendant rise in crime, Islamism and social disorder.

And what is there to halt the waves of immigration in boats and rafts from across the Mediterranean? Nothing. Out of a Middle East descending into chaos will come millions of Arab and Muslim refugees.

The African continent, which had 1.2 billion people in 2013, will have 2.3 billion in 2050, and 4.2 billion by century's end. Hundreds of millions of these African folks will be fleeing these lands to occupy the empty places left by the depopulating nations of Europe, not one of whom has a fertility rate to ensure that its native people survive.

As for the Scots, not to worry if Goldman Sachs is bearish on secession. When you enter the polling booths, just ask yourselves: What would *Braveheart* do?

<http://buchanan.org/blog/braveheart-6964>

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## Government and Rebels Negotiate Education, Utilities, and Reduction of Violence Issues...

### Syria:

## Engaging the Opposition with More than Weapons

By FRANKLIN LAMB

### *Tadmon and Kafr Sousa neighborhoods, Damascus.*

To my knowledge this observer has never been—or likely ever will be—accused of being particularly astute and certainly not the least bit prescient. Yet, the more Syrians I meet in Damascus neighborhoods—seemingly from a fairly broad spectrum of political views, I am changing some earlier assumptions and tentative judgments about “this interminable Syrian war.” While any sort of a timetable to end this horror is not yet discernible, the beginnings of putting much of it behind this ten millennia birthplace of civilization may be fairly imminent.

Eighteen months ago, more than a dozen neighborhoods in the Damascus suburbs were engaged in moderate to intense fighting between rebels and the Syrian army. Today, only four neighborhoods are under fairly heavy fire, Jobar, Daraya, al-Qabun and Yarmouk. In most of the others, the government and rebels appear to be seeking an accommodation of sorts.

Residents from Tadmon as well as some Damascus University students offered this observer some examples of how both sides of the civil war are trying to work positively with their sworn enemies despite the conflict approaching its fourth year. One major quality of life necessity is electricity in our homes. Supplying power to its areas is a major concern of both sides in this conflict. Frankly even the current Syrian system appears far better than in Lebanon which regularly sees road blockades and burning of tires to protest the nearly half century of incompetence and indifference of politicians in delivering as few as six hours of daily electricity and that depending on which area and which confession controls

relevant cabinet ministries. In these days of civil war in Syria the government delivers power two hours on and two hours off and full power during the night from 10 pm to 10 a.m. Not too bad by Levant standards. Even rebel groups in an increasingly number of neighborhoods, and to a lesser extent in the countryside, get government power. In some rebel neighborhoods electricity is being delivered to residents 24/7. This is achieved by militia stealing power via cables they run to other neighborhoods. They quite often seem to get away with it but occasionally they fight among themselves as happened earlier this month in Al Qudsayya when a dozen or so Nusra fighters routed around 50 FSA types caught hooking up wires under neighborhood buildings. Nusra and the FSA fight over a myriad of issues and especially over high-rise buildings. Tall buildings are at a premium for obvious reasons including being desirable for sniper nests and mortar launchings. Many neighborhood clashes occur in full view of army checkpoints that control neighborhood egress. Whether or not the army has orders not to interfere or engage with militias, they reportedly often do. Militia and army commanders, if not on exactly friendly terms, sometimes meet and parley as deemed necessary in an effort to create and maintain neighborhood peace. This practice appears to work for the benefit of both sides and is reportedly spreading, particularly around Damascus.

When rebel factions fight one another, as they often do and endanger a neighborhood, the army appears increasingly ready to will “mediate.” If their orders to end the residents

endangering fight are not immediately followed the army can and often does cut power to all sides until they receive pledges to honor the governments 'recommendations.'

Rebel and government "contracts" as the locals call them, cover many subjects, some seemingly odd if not very bizarre. One example. As news reports suggest the government's policy is to pacify the neighborhoods so refugees can return and it has made remarkably progress around Damascus despite an increase in rebel mortar firings into Damascus from approximately 6 per day a year ago to as many as 23 per day currently.

It is reported on good authority from eyewitnesses, that certain army checkpoints will actually allow armed militiamen to pass through army checkpoints freely if they will head to Jobar or Duraya or other 'fighting fields' to challenge the army there and keep local peace in their local community. Some do. Last week, according to a student who lives in al-Qabun, there was a potentially serious problem but it was solved at one of the periodic meetings between rebel leaders and army officers. The unusual problem was that when a dozen or so rebels headed to the army checkpoint to go fight the same army near Jobar they were observed carrying two AK-47's each.



**Principal Janet Hasan, adapting her school to war conditions to keep her students safe and inspired to learn**

The local army commander was livid because by the expressed terms of an earlier agreement each rebel fighter could only safely pass and return through the neighborhood army checkpoint if he was carrying only one AK. The rebels protested complaining that they need two, always fight with two and it was no big deal for the army to let them pass. The army insisted on only one AK-47 per rebel fighter and threatened to not only stop rebels from exiting and entering their neighborhood but that if they did not keep the earlier agreement the army would attack the rebel positions, presumably with artillery or airstrikes. This caused panic among the local civilians, many of whom have relatives in the FSA, Nusra, and even Da'ish. Long story made short, the rebels listened to their parents and relatives as well as to the reasoning of the army and finally agreed that they would carry only one AK-47 each thru the army checkpoints on route to fight the army a few kilometers away. According to two eyewitnesses to these events, all sides shook hands at the checkpoint as the rebels handed their second AK-47's to the army for "safe keeping." An unwritten rule between the army and their sworn enemies en route to try to kill them is that if the rebel gets killed the army checkpoint guys gets to keep his weapon. This is not to say the army and the rebels are in league, but the Syrian government is working to secure the neighborhoods and does not want to resort to bombing if they can obtain their objectives by other means. One hears of many 'contracts' being made among sworn enemies around Syria in order to try to end this slaughter.

Another brief example. Last week saw the doors of 17,486 of Syria's 22,192 public schools open their doors. This according to Dr. Farah al-Mutlak, Deputy Minister of Education of the SAR, who generously gave this observer his time to discuss

the current challenges for children in Syria. The gap of approximately 4,500 schools between the above figures is caused by the fact that 2,613 of Syrian schools, as of opening day were controlled by rebels including Da'ish. 688 former schools are now being used to house homeless refugees, 1,385 are war damaged and currently can't be used. The figure was higher but over the past year the government has been able to repair 435. In addition, approximately 128,000 children are attending "school clubs" in particularly volatile areas of Syria. This year alone, 72,000 children in Syria and 587,000 child refugees have received psychosocial support. Excited and sometimes apprehensive children by the thousands are arriving for the new school year and according to Janet Hasan, Principal of the Salahedine Primary and Middle School in the Mezze neighborhood of central Damascus which was among those this observer visited, her school which normally teaches 600 girls now has 1,436. Class size has traditionally been 30 students of average. Today, the average class size at Salahedine School is 60 students per class.

Yet despite severe overcrowding the classes appear very well organized and when the results of last June's Baccalaureate were announced 94% of Principal Hassan's students passed.

According to educator Hasan and some of her faculty this observer met with, due to the crisis attending school is enormously important for the children to experience at least some love and normalcy with peers and authority figures while learning about more than only the obvious effects of war on their lives.

If militias are in control of an area with a public school, efforts are being made by both parties to keep it peaceful and toward this goal the government and the militia, "cooperate" with the exception of Da'ish (IS) who have set up essentially Madrassas that do not teach anything much at all-but memorizing the Koran. Da'ish forbids teaching music, dancing, studying philosophy, western literature or other 'secular subjects.' Al Nusra does not, unlike Da'ish, insist on a Madrassa type education in public schools which so far are a big success this new year and working to the benefit of the children and their exhausted and often destitute families.

Virtually every educator, government official and critic of the Assad regime with whom this observer has discussed what the Syrian government is doing to provide quality education for youngsters these days have agreed that all sides, except Da'ish, are trying at different levels to cooperate to help Syria's cherished youth. All also express abhorrence at what is happening to Syrian school children forced to take refuge in Lebanon. In Lebanon, there's simply no space in many schools nor much political will left to help Syrian or Palestinian refugees plus the education system is overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of child refugees. Around 80 percent of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon don't attend school, according to Save the Children and UNHCR.



**94% of last years graduating class at Salahedine school past their crucial Baccalaureate Exams opening the door to universities and higher education**

One positive sign is that partly due to the Syrian Ministry of Education seeking international help, more than \$316m was pledged this week, according to Dr. al-Mutlak, to support Syrian children affected by the conflict. This assistance is part of a UN-led initiative to alleviate the impact of the crisis on young people. Despite this wonderful and much needed help a funding gap of more than \$ 200 million remains.

Another issue that both sides are trying to resolve at citizens request is to open the neighborhoods on the weekends so residents can move around. Currently in as many as a dozen Damascene neighborhoods the rebels prevent residents from leaving their area on Friday because they believe they should pray and stay at home. Some militias close the neighborhoods they control during both Friday and Saturday. Both sides have indicated that a mutually agreed resolution may be near so residents can head to the beautiful parks and old city for sightseeing or visit friends and family.

There is growing evidence here that the government and the rebels are trying to collaborate in various ways in order to save and entire generation of their children from being denied education due to the ravages of ongoing civil war. This massive catastrophe for Syria and the region can be ended if the above noted trend continues.

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## US Global Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Military or Economic Imperialism?

James Petras

### Introduction

Despite vast amounts of imperial data to the contrary, the great majority of writers on imperialism continue to describe and analyze US imperialism strictly in economic terms, as an expansion of "capital accumulation", "accumulation on a world scale".

In fact the major and minor US imperial wars have more to do with "capital dis-accumulation", in the sense that trillion dollar flows have gone out from the US, hundreds of billions of dollars in profits from resource sites have been undermined, markets for exports have been severely weakened and exploitable productive labor has been uprooted. At the same time US imperialist state 'dis-accumulates capital', multi-national corporations, especially in the extractive sector are expanding, "accumulating capital" throughout Latin America.

This new configuration of power, the conflicting and complementary nature of 21<sup>st</sup> century US imperialism, requires that we anchor our analysis in the real, existing behavior of imperial state and extractive capitalist policymakers. The basic premise informing this essay is that there are two increasingly divergent forms of imperialism: military driven intervention, occupation and domination; and economic expansion and exploitation of resources, markets and labor by invitation of the 'host country'.

We will proceed by examining the choices of imperial strategy, in a historical – comparative framework and the alternatives which were selected or rejected. Through an analysis of the practical decisions taken regarding 'imperial expansion' we can obtain insights into the real nature of US imperialism. The study of imperial strategic choices, past and present, state and corporate, requires three levels of analysis: global, national and sectoral.

### Global Strategies:

#### US Imperial State and the MNC

US imperial state invested trillions of dollars in military expenditures, hundreds of thousands of military personnel into wars in the Middle East (Iraq, Yemen, and Syria), North and East Africa (Libya, Somalia), South Asia (Afghanistan) and imposed sanctions on Iran costing the US hundreds of billions in "capital dis-accumulation".

The US corporate elite, driven out of Iraq, Syria, Libya and elsewhere where US military imperialism was engaged, chose to invest in manufacturing in China and extractive sectors throughout Latin America.

In other words the US imperial state strategists either chose to expand in relatively backward areas (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen) or imposed under-development by destroying or sanctioning lucrative extractive economies (Iraq, Libya, Iran).

In contrast the MNC chose the most dynamic expanding zones where militarist imperialism was least engaged – China and Latin America. In other words "capital did not follow the flag" – it avoided it.

Moreover, the zones where extractive capital was most successful in terms of access, profits and stability were those where their penetration was based on negotiated contracts between sovereign nations and CEO's – economic imperialism by invitation.

In contrast in the priority areas of expansion chosen by imperial state strategists, entry and domination was by force, leading to the destruction of the means of production and the loss of access to the principle sites of extractive exploitation. US military driven imperialism undermined energy companies' agreements in Iraq and Libya. Imperial state sanctions in Iran designed to weaken its nuclear and defense capabilities undercut US corporate extractive, public-private contracts with the Iranian state oil corporations. The drop in production and supply in oil in Iraq, Iran and Libya raised energy prices and had a negative impact on the "accumulation of capital on a world scale".

If imperial state decision-makers had followed the direction of economic rather than military driven policymakers they would have pivoted to Asia and Latin America rather than the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa. They would have channeled funds into economic imperialist strategies, including joint ventures, high and medium tech trade agreements, and expanded exports by the high-end manufacturing sector, instead of financing 700 military bases, destabilization campaigns and costly military exercises.

Twentieth century military imperialism stands in stark contrast to late twentieth century economic imperialism. In the mid 1960's the US announced a vast new economic program in Latin America – the Alliance for Progress which was designed to finance economic opportunities in Latin America via joint ventures, agrarian reform and investments in the extractive sector. The imperial state's military policies and interventionist policies were designed to secure US business control over mines, banks, factories and agro-business. US backing for the coups in Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay and Peru led to the privatization of key

resource sectors and the imposition of the neo-liberal economic model.

US policy in Asia under Nixon was directed first and foremost to opening economic relations with China, expanding trade agreements with Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. The 'pivot from war' to free trade led to a boom in US exports as well as imports, in private investments and lucrative profits. Military expenditures declined even as the US engaged in covert operations in Afghanistan, Angola, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Imperial intervention combined military and economic expansion with the latter dictating policy priorities and the allocation of resources.

The reversal set in with the US military backing of the jihadist extremists in Afghanistan and the demise of the USSR. The former set the stage for the rise of the Taliban to power and the emergence of the Al Qaeda terrorist organization. The latter led US imperial strategists to pursue wars of conquest with impunity – Yugoslavia and Iraq during the 1990's.

Easy military conquests and visions of a 'unipolar' world dominated by US military supremacy, encouraged and fostered the emergence of a new breed of imperial strategists – the neo-conservative militarists with closer ties to Israel and its military priorities than to the US extractive petrol capitalists in the Middle East.

### **Military versus Economic Imperialist at the 'National Level'**

In the post-Cold War period, the competition between the two variants of imperialism was played out in all the nation subject to US intervention.

During the first Iraq war the balance between militarists and economic imperialists was in play. The US defeated Iraq but did not shred the state, nor bomb the oil fields. Sanctions were imposed but did not paralyze oil deals. The US did not occupy Iraq; it partitioned the north –so-called "Kurdish" Iraq but left the secular state intact. Extractive capital was actively in competition with the militarist neo-conservatives over the future direction of imperial policy.

The launch of the second Iraq war and the invasion of Afghanistan marked a decisive shift toward military imperialism: the US ignored all economic considerations. Iraq's secular state was destroyed; civil society was pulverized; ethno-religious, tribal and clan warfare was encouraged. US colonial officials ruled by military fiat; top policymakers with links to Israel replaced oil-connected officials. The militarist "war on terror" ideology replaced free market, free trade imperialism. Afghanistan killing fields replaced the China market as the center of US imperial policy. Billions were spent, chasing evasive guerrillas in the mountains of a backward economy while US lost competitive advantages in the most dynamic Asian markets.

Imperial policymakers chose to align with sectarian warlords in Iraq over extractive technocrats. In Afghanistan they chose loyal ex-pat puppets over influential Taliban leaders capable of pacifying the country.

Extractive versus Military Imperialism in Latin America Latin American neo-liberalism went from boom to bust in the 1990's. By the early 2000's crisis enveloped the region. By the turn of the century US backed rulers were being replaced by popular nationalist leaders. US policymakers stuck by their neoliberal clients in decline

and failed to adapt to the new rulers who pursued modified socially inclusive extractivism. The US military imperialists longed for a return of the neo-liberal backers of the "war on terrorism". In contrast, international multinational extractive corporations were realists – and adapted to the new regimes.

On a global scale, at the beginning of the new millennium, two divergent tendencies emerged. US military imperialism expanded throughout the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and the Caucasus, while Latin American regimes turned in the opposite direction – toward moderate nationalism, and populism with a strong emphasis on poverty reduction via economic development in association with imperial extractive capital

In the face of these divergent and conflicting trends, the major US extractive multi-national corporations chose to adapt to the new political realities in Latin America. While Washington, the imperial state, expressed hostility and dismay toward the new regimes refusal to back the "war on terror" (military imperialism) the major MNCs, robust embrace of economic imperialism, took advantage of the investment opportunities opened by the new regimes' adoption of a new extractivist model, to pour billions into the mining, energy and agricultural sectors.

The Specificities of Extractive Imperialism in the Era of "Post Neo-Liberalism"

Extractive imperialism in Latin America has several specific characteristics that sharply demarcate it from earlier forms agro-mineral imperialism.

Extractive capital is not dominated by a single imperial country-like the Spanish in the 18th century, the British in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or the US in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Imperial extractive capital is very diverse: Canadian, US, Chinese, Brazilian, Australian, Spanish, Indian and other MNCs are deeply involved.

The imperial states of the diverse MNC do not engage in "gun boat diplomacy" (with the exception of the US). The imperial states provide economic financing and diplomatic support but are not actively involved in subverting Latin American regimes.

The relative weight of US MNCs, in the new imperial extractivism is much less than it was a half century earlier. The rise of diverse extractive MNC and dynamism of China's commodity market and deep financial pockets have displaced the US, the IMF and WB and established new terms of trade with Latin America.

Probably the most significant aspect of the new imperial extractivism is that its entry and expansion is by invitation. The Latin American regimes and the extractive MNCs negotiate contracts – MNC entry is not unilaterally imposed by an imperial state. Yet the 'contracts' may result in unequal returns; they provide substantial revenues and profits to the MNC; they grant large multi-million acre tracts of land for mining or agriculture exploitation; they obligate the national state to dispossess local communities and police/repress the displaced. But they also have allowed the post-neo-liberal state to expand their social spending, to increase their foreign reserves, to eschew relations with the IMF, and to diversify their markets and trading partners.

In regional terms extractive imperialism in Latin America has "accumulated capital" by diverging from

the military imperialism practiced by the US in other regions of the world political- economy. Over the past decade and a half, extractive capital has been allied with and relies both on post-neoliberal and neoliberal regimes against petty commodity producers, indigenous communities and other anti-extractive resistance movements. Extractive imperialists do not rely on 'their' imperial state to quell resistance- they turn to their national political partners.

Extractive imperialism by invitation also diverges from the military imperial state in its view toward regional organizations. US military imperialism placed all its bets on US centered economic integration which Washington could leverage to political, military and economic advantage. Extractive capital, in the great diversity of its 'national identity', welcomed Latin American centered integration which did not privilege US markets and investors.

The predominance of economic imperialism, in particular the extractive version, however, needs to be qualified by several caveats.

US military imperialism has been present in several forms. The US backed the military coup in Honduras overthrowing the post neo-liberal Zelaya government; likewise it supported an "institutional coup" in Paraguay.

Secondly, even as MNC corporations poured capital into Bolivian mining and energy sectors, the US imperial state fomented destabilization activity to undermine the MAS government. And was defeated and the agencies and operatives were expelled. The crucial issue in this, as well as other, instances is the unwillingness of the MNC's to join forces with the military imperialists, via boycotts, trade embargoes or disinvestment. Clearly the stability, profitability and long-term contracts between the Bolivian regime and the extractive MNC counted for more than their ties to the US imperial state.

US military imperialism has expanded its military bases and increased joint military exercises with most Latin American armed forces. Indoctrinated military officials can still become formidable potential allies in any future 'coup', if and when the US "pivots" from the Middle East to Latin America.

US military imperialism in its manifest multiple forms, from bankrolling NGO's engaged in destabilization and street riots in Venezuela, to its political support of financial speculators in Argentina and rightwing parties and personalities in Brazil, has a continuous presence alongside extractive imperialism. The success of the latter and the eclipse of the former are based in part on two contingent circumstances. The US serial wars in the Middle East divert attention away from Latin America; and the commodity boom fuels the growth of extractive capital. The economic slowdown in China and the decline of commodity prices may weaken the regimes in opposition to US military imperialism.

Paradoxically the weakening of the ties between the post-neo-liberal regimes and extractive imperialism resulting from the decline of commodity prices is strengthening the neo-liberal socio-political forces allied with US military imperialism.

### **Latin America's Right Turn: The Co-Habitation of Extractive and Military imperialism?**

Throughout Latin America the post-neoliberal regimes which ruled for the better part of a decade and a half face serious challenges – from consequential social opposition at the micro-level and from aggressive political-economic elites at the macro-level. It is worthwhile to survey the prospects for a return to power of neo-liberal regimes allied with military imperialism in several key countries.

Several factors are working in favor of a return to power of political parties and leaders who seek to reverse the independent and inclusive policies of the post neoliberal power bloc.

First the post-neo-liberal regimes development strategy of depending on foreign extractive capital, perpetuated and strengthened the economic basis of imperialism: the 'colonial style' trade relation, exporting primary commodities and importing finished goods, allowed the agro-mineral elites to occupy key positions in the politico-social structure. With the decline in commodity prices, some post-neoliberal regimes are experiencing fiscal and balance of payments shortfalls. Inflation and cuts in social expenditures adversely affect the capacity of the post-neo-liberal regimes to retain popular and middle class electoral support.

The divergences between post-neoliberals and economic imperialism are accentuating with return of the neoliberal right. The agro-mineral sectors perceive an opportunity to rid themselves of their power and revenue sharing agreements with the state and to secure even more lucrative arrangements with the advance of the neo-liberal right which promises tax and royalty reductions, deregulation and lower wage and pension payments.

Secondly, the post-neo-liberal regimes' alliances with the building , construction, and other bourgeois sectors, was accompanied by corruption involving pay-offs, bribes and other illicit financial transactions designed to finance their mass media based electoral campaigns and patronage system which ensured electoral majorities. The neo-liberal right is exploiting these corruption scandals to erode the middle class electoral base of the post -neo-liberal regimes.

Thirdly, the post-neo-liberal regimes increased the quantity of social services, but ignored their quality – provoking widespread discontent with the inadequate public educational, transport, and health services.

Fourthly, inflation is eroding the decade long advance of wage, pension and family allowances. The post-neo-liberal regimes are caught between the pressures to "adjust" –to devalueand impose fiscal 'austerity' as proposed by the international bankers and lose mass support, or to engage in deeper structural changes which require among other things, changes in the extractive dependence model and greater public ownership. The crises of the post-neo-liberal regimes is leading to irresolution and opening political space for the neo-liberal right which is allied to military and economic imperialism.

Military imperialism, which was weakened by the popular uprisings at the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century is never absent. US military imperialism is first and foremost powerfully entrenched in two major countries: Mexico and Colombia. In both countries neo-liberal regimes bought into the militarization of their societies, including the comprehensive and deep presence of US military-police officials in the structures of the state.

In both states, US military and economic imperialism operates in alliance with paramilitary death squads, even as they proclaimed "a war on drugs". The ideology of free market imperialism was put into practice with the elimination of trade barriers, widespread privatization of resources and multi-million acre land grants to MNC.

Through its regional clients, US imperialism has a springboard to extend its influence. Mexican style 'militarized imperialism' has spread to Central America; Colombia serves as a launch-pad to subvert Venezuela and Ecuador.

Where dissident regimes emerged in regions claimed by militarized imperialism, Honduras and Paraguay, military and civilian coups were engineered. However because of the regional concentration of US military imperialism in the Middle East it relies heavily on local collaborators, political, military and economic elites as vehicles for "regime change".

Extractive imperialism is under siege from popular movements in many countries in Latin America. In some cases, the political elites have increasingly militarized the contested terrain. Where this is the case, the regimes invite and accept an increased imperial military presence, as advisers, and embrace their militarist ideology, thus fostering a "marriage" between extractive and military imperialism. This is the case in Peru under President Humala and Santos in Colombia.

In Argentina and Brazil, the moderate reformist policies of the Kirchner and Lula/Rousseff regimes are under siege. Faltering export earnings, rising deficits, inflationary pressures have fueled a neo-liberal offensive, which takes a new form: populism at the service of neo-liberal collaboration with military imperialism. Extractive capital has *divided* -some sectors retain ties with the regime, others, the majority are allied with rising power of the right.

In Brazil, the Right has promoted a former environmentalist (Silva) to front for the hardline neo-liberal financial sector - which has received full support from local and imperial mass media. In Argentina, the imperial state and mass media have backed hedge fund speculators and have launched a full scale economic war, claiming default, in order to damage Buenos Aires' access to capital markets in order to increase its investments in the extractive sector.

In contrast Bolivia, the extractive model par excellence, has moved successfully to oust and weaken the military arm of imperialism, ending the presence of US military advisers and DEA officials, while deepening and strengthening its ties with diverse extractive MNCs on the one hand, and on the other consolidating support among the trade unions and peasant-Indian movements.

In Ecuador the extractive regime of Correa has diversified the sources of imperial capital from the US to China, and consolidated his power via effective patronage machinery and socio-economic reforms.

The US-Colombian military threat to Venezuela and Ecuador has diminished, peace negotiations with the FARC are advancing and the regime now faces trade union and Indian-peasant opposition with regard to its extractive strategy and corporatist labor reforms.

In both Ecuador and Bolivia, imperial militarism appears to lack the vital strategic military-civilian allies capable of engineering a regime change.

The case of Venezuela highlights the continuing importance of imperial militarism in shaping US policy in Latin America. The pivot to a military policy, was taken by Washington prior to any basic social reforms or economic nationalist measures. The coup of 2001 and lockout of 2002 were backed by the US in response to President Chavez forceful rejection of the "War on Terrorism". Washington jeopardized its important economic stake, petrol investments, in order to put in place a regime in conforming to its global military strategy.

And for the next decade and a half, the US imperial strategy totally ignored investment, trade and resource opportunities in this wealthy petrol state; it chose to spend hundreds of millions in financing opposition NGO, terrorists, electoral parties, mass media and military officials to effect a regime change. The extractive sector in the US simply became a transmission belt for the agencies of the militarized imperial state. In its place, Russia and China, interested especially extractive sector signed multi-billion dollar contracts with the Venezuelan state: a case of extractive imperialism by invitation - for economic and security reasons.

Apart from the ideological conflict over US militarist expansion, Venezuela's promotion of Latin American centered regional integration, weakened US leverage and control in the region. In its struggle against Latin American centered regional organizations and to regain its dominance, US imperialism has upgraded its economic profile via the Trans-Pacific Alliance, which includes its most loyal neo-liberal allies - Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico. The global eclipse of economic - driven imperial expansion in favor of the military has not totally displaced several key economic advances in strategic countries and sectors in Mexico, Colombia and Peru.

The privatization and denationalization of the biggest and most lucrative public petrol company in Latin America, PEMEX, the Mexican giant, opens up enormous profitable opportunities for US MNC. The rapid appropriation of oil fields by US MNC will enhance and compliment the militarization of Mexico undertaken by the US military-security apparatus.

#### **The Mexican example highlights several features of US imperialism in Latin America.**

Imperial militarization does not necessarily preclude economic imperialism if it takes place within an existing stable state structure. Unlike the imperial wars in Iraq and Libya, the military imperialist policies in Mexico advanced via powerful local political clients willing and able to engage in bloody civil wars costing over 100,000 civilian deaths in over a decade. Under the aegis and guidance of US imperial rulers, the US and Mexican military devastated civil society, but safeguarded and expanded the huge mining and manufacturing enclaves open to economic imperialist exploitation. Militarization contributed to weakening the bargaining rights of labor - wages have declined in real terms over the decades and the minimum wage is the lowest in the hemisphere.

Mexico highlights the crucial role that collaborator elites play in imperial capital accumulation. Mexico is an excellent example of 'imperialism by invitation' - the

political agreements at the top impose 'acquiescence' below. The extraordinary levels of corruption which permeates the entire political class, solidifies the longstanding links between Mexican political-business elite, the MNC and the security apparatus of the imperial state. Extractive imperialism is the principal beneficiary of this "triple alliance".

In the case of Mexico, militarized imperialism laid the groundwork for the expansion of economic imperialism. A similar process, involving 'triple alliances' is operative in Colombia. For the past decade and a half, militarized-imperialism poured over \$6 billion in military aid(Plan Colombia) to finance the dispossession, assassination, arrest and torture and of over 4 million Colombians, including the killing of thousands of trade union and social movement leaders.

The scorched earth policy, backed by a substantial US military mission operated through the existing state apparatus and with the active support of the agro-mineral and banking elite ,aided by nearly 40,000 member paramilitary death squads and drug traffickers laid the groundwork for the large scale entry of extractive capital – particularly mining capital.

Military imperialism preceded the long-term, large scale 'invasion' by economic imperialism in the form of a free trade agreement and multi-million acre land grants to mining MNC.

This general pattern was repeated in Peru. The 'war on terror" under Fujimori and the subsequent liberalization of the economy, under three subsequent Presidents, culminated in the massive primarization of the economy under President Humala – who deepened and extended the expansion of imperial extractive capital.

The economic downturn in some of the post-neo-liberal economies, namely Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, and the rightward moving political spectrum, has opened a window of opportunity for US economic imperialism to work in tandem with the rising neo-liberal political opposition. The military option, a military coup or US military intervention is not on the horizon for the present time. The central focus of imperial state decision makers regarding regime change is a combination of overt electoral and covert 'street intervention': adopting 'populist', moralist and technocratic rhetoric to highlight corruption in high offices, inefficiency in the delivery of social services with claims of bureaucratic interference in the operations of the market. Business disinvestment, financial speculation on the currency and negative mass media propaganda has coincided strikes and protests against shortages and lag between wage and price increases.

Despite costly and failed imperial wars in the Middle East, despite a decade of military retreat in Latin America, economic imperialism is advancing via the electoral route; it already has established a formidable array of allies among the political regimes in Mexico, Colombia and Peru and is posed to re-establish neo-liberal allies in Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela.

### Conclusion

Imperialism as it has evolved over the past quarter of a century cannot be understood as a 'unified whole' in which the two basic components, military and economic are always complimentary. Divergences have been graphically illustrated by the imperial wars in the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa. Convergences are more obvious in Latin America, especially in Mexico, Colombia and Peru, where 'militarization' facilitated the expansion of extractive capital.

The theoretical point is that the nature of the political leadership of the imperial state has a high degree of autonomy in shaping the predominance of one or another strand of the imperial expansion. The capacity for imperial capital to expand is highly contingent on the strength and structure of the collaborator state: militarized imperialism that invades and destroys states and the fabric of civil society has led to disinvestment; in contrast economic imperialism by invitation in neo-liberal collaborator states has been at the center of successful imperial expansion.

The ambiguities and contradictions intrinsic to the post-neo-liberal extractivist based development model have both constrained the military component of imperialism while expanding opportunities for economic imperial accumulation. Accumulation by invitation, and accumulation by dispossession are simply 'moments' in a complex process in which political regime changes intervene and establish the locations and timing for refluxes and influxes of capital.

The rise of new economic imperialist powers like China competing with established imperial powers like the US, has led to alternative markets and sources of financing, which erodes the effectiveness political, military and diplomatic instruments of imperial coercion.

Regional variations in political configurations, imperial priorities and choice of instruments of power, have deeply influenced the nature and structure of imperialism. And as the world historic record seems to argue, military driven empire building in the Middle East has been a disaster while economic driven imperialism shows signs of rapid recovery and successes in Latin America.

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## Starsuckers watch & share, shocking evidence of Max Clifford, from 2010!

Published on Aug 14, 2013

Credit to original Film maker, scroll down for more info & link to site, more films & to buy. we do not own the copyright to this film & hope those that can afford to, buy the dvd, share with friends. All credits appear at the end, and so much info is contained, including charities & fundraisers like Live Aid, revealing how just as with the anti child abuse rallies, the message got lost, are covered, politicians, getting prostitutes by agency workers, for starts, psychological effects.

Please watch & share the trailer entitled: 'The film Max Clifford didn't want you to see', which at the end in a few mins contains a shocking revelation of him protecting, knowing, what was happening.

These were released 2010..... perhaps now, more people are joining the dots, it will receive more attention.

We have collated playlists on various aspects of the enormity of child rape, murder, torture, historically,

systematically, institutionally, currently, socially, globally, with some educational, supportive, and current campaigns to co create changes... and help people, join the dots & join in with cocreating change... <http://childabusejointhedots.wordpress...>and I repeat, please support the film maker if you can, but free sharing hasn't cost the big companies or stars really, isn't there room for both, as many are becoming poorer, imo. please watch & share widely as possible, it's a good waker up, for the many who are now beginning too.

Many more are turning off tv,s more, and tuning into independent films on the net. Learning not to comply, and to become as self sufficient and empowered, as possible, empowering others too. Thats how we will end child abuse and make this

The Real Fullstop Link to Trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LW7b7N...>

watch & share too, please :)

THE SUNDAY TIMES \*\*\*\* HEAT MAGAZINE \*\*\*\* THE EXPRESS

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Do you want to know how much Simon Cowell pays publicist Max Clifford? Or what the PR guru does to protect one of his influential clients who enjoys sex in public places? Would you like to know what Samuel L Jackson, Clint Eastwood, Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes think about celebrity culture and their fans? Or how about learning how to make a quick £600 for a fake story that a reporter is too lazy to substantiate? All is revealed in STARSUCKERS (12), the highly controversial documentary about a media obsessed by celebrity, available to buy now.

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**It also argues how truth has become a distant memory in some modern news reporting and presentation, and climaxes with shocking revelations about Live 8.**

Special Features

- Audio commentary with director Chris Atkins and producer Christina Slater
- Companion booklet written by Chris Atkins
- 100 minutes of previously unseen video footage of celebrity interviews-

<http://www.starsuckersmovie.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5QR0UdsojA>

The Downfall of Kim Dotcom

## How the Internet entrepreneur's venture into New Zealand politics went off the rails.

By Geoffrey Miller, October 06, 2014

Kim Dotcom's foray into the tiny and normally rather placid world of New Zealand politics brought [global interest to the South Pacific nation's recent election](#) – culminating with the involvement of other outside heavyweights, including NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden and Wikileaks founder Julian Assange. Ultimately the über-wealthy German immigrant went head to head with the country's prime minister – and lost. Dotcom ended up failing spectacularly – [describing himself](#) as political "poison." His Internet Mana alliance, personally bankrolled by Dotcom to the tune of nearly NZ\$5 million (\$3.9 million), failed to win a single seat in New Zealand's 120-seat parliament in elections held on September 20.

Outwardly, Kim Dotcom's Internet Party campaigned against mass surveillance and for free tertiary education and marijuana law reform. But by the end, New Zealand voters saw through the party – officially registered only in May this year – and deemed it a vanity project designed only to win Dotcom enough political support to hold the balance of power under the

country's proportional voting system and veto his extradition to the U.S. An unusual alliance with Mana, a leftist party advocating for the interests of New Zealand's underprivileged indigenous Maori, seemed like a bold tactical move on paper, but was a disaster in practice. Dotcom's flamboyant lifestyle and seemingly limitless cash ended up destroying Mana's credibility of standing up for the downtrodden.



Image Credit: REUTERS/Nigel Marple

Dotcom, who moved to New Zealand in 2010, rose to prominence in the small island nation through an unusually lavish lifestyle and a habit for splashing cash amongst the country's elite. The German shelled out NZ\$500,000 to [sponsor fireworks](#) welcoming in 2011 in New Zealand's biggest city, Auckland. And he gave \$NZ50,000 to high-profile Auckland mayoral candidate John Banks – a donation that later became the subject of intense scrutiny after it was revealed Banks, later a key government minister, had illegally declared it as anonymous. Dotcom, offended by Banks' refusal to acknowledge his generosity, later testified against him in court. Banks [lost](#).

The need to win powerful friends became particularly evident to Dotcom after the Hollywood-style raid of his luxurious mansion north of Auckland in January 2012. The raid, carried out by New Zealand police with the help of FBI agents, saw Dotcom arrested on copyright and racketeering charges – and facing extradition to the U.S. Released on bail, Dotcom mounted a none-too-subtle public relations campaign to win sympathy with the New Zealand public – including [hosting](#) "Swim with Kim" pool-parties at his home and recording several pieces of original music, such as a [song](#) poking fun at John Banks. For New Zealanders with a soft spot for an underdog, Dotcom was the perfect puckish rogue.

Initially, New Zealanders seemed curious about the "man everyone wants," as he was announced at his election rallies. Dotcom's personal celebrity and charisma shook up election year, in a country where successful politicians typically pride themselves on a managerial style more characteristic of bank managers. Dotcom's non-conformist attitude became apparent when the Internet Party took politics into nightclubs with a series of "party parties." Attracted by the music and eager to meet and take a selfie with Dotcom himself, young New Zealand voters flocked to the country's nightlife venues.

Ironically, it was one of these dance parties that laid the ground for Kim Dotcom's downfall. Dotcom led party-goers in a repeated chant against the country's center-right prime minister, [John Key](#). A video of the "f\*\*k John Key" chant was uploaded to the official YouTube account for Internet Mana and [widely circulated](#) through social media. But many New Zealand voters appeared disgusted by the negative campaigning against an enormously popular incumbent. Since 2008, Key had leveraged his down-home image and his disarming, self-deprecating sense of humor to steer New Zealand through tough economic times and the destruction caused by [two major earthquakes](#). Key's personal popularity with centrist voters was such that it came as no surprise to watchers when his National Party mounted a presidential-style re-election campaign, using the slogan "[Team Key](#)." Against Key's "nice guy" image, the abuse being hurled by Dotcom seemed jarring.

And there were other examples of nastiness: a "[burning effigy](#)" of John Key, never formally linked to Internet Mana, was frequently cited by the prime minister as evidence of Dotcom's unsavory tactics, along with apparent death threats. Dotcom also clashed with his own Internet Party leader, Laila Harre, after he tweeted a "[joke](#)" about killing a prostitute. And at Internet

Mana's campaign launch in August, a party press secretary angrily called a journalist a "puffed up little sh\*t" – an [outburst](#) which led that night's television news bulletins.

Not all the blame for the failure of Internet Mana can be laid at Dotcom's door. It was never clear how the joint venture between Hone Harawira's Mana, a far-left party based around improving the lot of disadvantaged Maori, and Kim Dotcom's Internet Party, which had been targeting educated, urban and predominantly white voters, fitted together. By the election, the purple branding and original startup feel of the Internet Party – which let members [determine policy](#) via a Reddit-style online platform – had all but been subsumed by the hard-left Mana, at the behest of Harawira. The result was a strange mix of Maori nationalism, sprinkled with old style socialism and [pictures](#) of children clutching iPads.

But in the end, Internet Mana's fortunes rose and fell with those of Kim Dotcom. By the time his much touted "Moment of Truth" public meeting took place on September 15, five days before the election, most voters had grown tired of what seemed like a sideshow. The cast of foreigners – including U.S. journalist Glenn Greenwald, as well as Julian Assange and Edward Snowden – revealed a [host of eye-popping claims](#) about New Zealand's role in international spying, through the "Five Eyes" alliance with the United States. But for most voters, their presence only served to underline Dotcom's own foreignness and that he was improperly interfering in another country's election. If he had initially been given the benefit of the doubt as a charming renegade, Dotcom was now the angry guest who had outstayed his welcome.

Key summed up in blunt terms what most voters thought about the "Moment of Truth," [telling](#) a radio station: "Dotcom is trying to save Dotcom's butt, and it's a reasonably large one so he's bought in all of these people, three little butts to save his butt, and it won't work but they'll say and do anything and bamboozle people." The fact that no credible proof emerged at the "Moment of Truth" to support Dotcom's much promised "big reveal" – which revolved around an outlandish conspiracy theory that New Zealand had granted him residency only to make it easier for the United States to extradite him – only added to voters' impression that he was a charlatan.

In May, Kim Dotcom [described](#) his pet political party as his "gift to New Zealand." On election night, he was forced to concede that his very brand had been toxic. For John Key, Dotcom turned out to be the gift that kept on giving. New Zealand voters' loathing of Kim Dotcom and his tainting of the country's left played no small part in delivering Key's center-right National Party a landslide victory. After the election, a jubilant Key had only [one piece of advice](#) for the defeated Dotcom. "Go away."

**Geoffrey Miller** is a New Zealand lecturer at the Johannes-Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany. During the election campaign, he was a researcher in the Department of Politics at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Follow him on Twitter @GeoffMillerNZ.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/10/the-downfall-of-kim-dotcom/>

## UK vicar attends Tehran 'Zionist lobby' conference

Long-time Israel critic Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer appears to have landed himself in hot water.

By JERRY LEWIS, 10/06/2014 23:30

LONDON – Long-time Israel critic Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer appears to have landed himself in hot water by participating in a conference in Iran alongside Holocaust deniers and conspiracy theorists.

Sizer's presence in Tehran last week at the "Second New Horizon Conference," where he was listed as a speaker in a session on the Israel lobby in England, "brings into question whether he is honoring the spirit of the conciliation agreement [between Sizer and Jewish representatives] in good faith," said the Community Security Trust (CST), the organization that tackles anti-Semitism in the UK.

Hosted by the Iranian regime, those attending the conference reportedly included French comedian Dieudonne M'Bala M'Bala, whose controversial "quenelle" gesture was deemed anti-Semitic, and Medea Benjamin from the US CodePink organization that supports the boycott of Israel.



**Stephen Sizer. Photo credit:Wikimedia Commons**

Church of England cleric Sizer has long voiced rhetoric that at times some feel has anti-Semitic undertones.

While he has no significant status in the Church of England's hierarchy, his trenchant views on Middle East issues – promulgated from his church at Virginia Water in Surrey, south of London – have given him a prominence among Anglicans who have sympathies with the Palestinian narrative.

For several years, it was the view of many in the Jewish community that publicly attacking him would just give added publicity to his campaigning, but after several complaints that his stance was taking a tone that was more than unpleasant toward Jews and Israelis, not least of all through suggested links from his website to those of anti-Semites and Holocaust deniers, the Jewish community decided to take action.

In 2012, the Board of Deputies of British Jews complained to the Church of England about his Internet links, and as a result a conciliation agreement was accepted by both parties, which included Sizer accepting that "on occasions his use of language has caused offense to some and agrees that he should have reflected on his choice of words more carefully."

Sizer also said that he cared passionately about the safety of the Jewish people and the right of Israel to exist within internationally agreed borders.

"I have always opposed racism, anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, as well as Islamophobia and the denial of the Palestinian right to self-determination and will continue to do so," he said.

Iranian-run Press TV has described the conference as intending to "unveil the secrets behind the dominance of the Zionist lobby over the US and EU politics," with one session devoted to examining "Mossad's role in the 9/11 Coup d'Etat," and another discussing "9/11 and the Holocaust as pro-Zionist 'Public myths.'"

CST's deputy communications director Dave Rich described Sizer's participation in the event as "utterly shameful," a view echoed by a Board of Deputies spokesman who said that the cleric's attendance and participation at "such a hate-filled event is irreconcilable with his position as a minister in the Church of England."

In the circumstances, he added, they were considering future action against Sizer.

<http://www.ipost.com/Diaspora/UK-vicar-attends-Tehran-Zionist-lobby-conference-378226>

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## The problem with Wagner

By Ian Thal, Special to *The Advocate*

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